GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2833
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
ORGANISATION ENGAGED IN COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The number of organisations engaged in collection and distribution of news and write-ups in the country;

(b) The number out of them having recognition of the Union Government;

(c) the norms fixed for recognising them; and

(d) the quantum of grants/loan provided to them during each of the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (b): This Ministry does not maintain a record of organizations engaged in collection and distribution of news and write-ups in the country. However, the representatives of the following major news agencies are accredited with Press Information Bureau (PIB):

1. United News of India (UNI)
2. Univarta – United News of India
3. Press trust of India (PTI)
4. Press trust of India – Bhasha
5. Asian News International – India (ANI) (Wire Service)
6. Indo- Asian News service (IANS)
7. India News & Feature Alliance (INFA)

(c) Norms for grant of accreditation are annexed.

(d) No grant / loan to such organizations has been provided by this Ministry during the last three years.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2833 FOR REPLY ON 11.08.2005.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

(These rules have been approved by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting vide I.D. Note No. 25/33/98-Press dated 10.8.1999)

RULES FOR GRANT OF ACCRREDITATION TO NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE NORMS FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF CENTRAL PRESS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

1. SHORT TITLE

These rules may be called 'The Central Newsmedia Accreditation Rules, 1999'.

2. COMMENCEMENT AND SCOPE

2.1 These rules shall come into force from the date of notification by the Government.

2.2 These rules shall apply to the grant of accreditation to representatives of news media organisations at the headquarters of the Government of India and shall supercede all previous rules in this regard.

3. AMENDMENTS

The Central Press Accreditation Committee or the Principal Information Officer can make recommendations to the Central Government for amendment of the rules from time to time as considered necessary.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1 "Central Press Accreditation Committee" means a Committee constituted by the Government of India under these Rules.

4.2 Newspaper' shall have the same definition as given in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

4.3 News Media' shall include newspapers, wire service and non-wire service news agencies, News Feature Agencies, Electronic Media Agencies and organisations containing news and comments on public news.

4.4 A 'Daily Newspaper' shall be published on not less than five days in a week or as defined in the PRB Act.

4.5 A Weekly' and 'Fortnightly' newspaper shall have not less than 45 or 22 issues in a year, respectively.

4.6 'Principal Information Officer' means the Principal Information Officer to the Government of India, hereinafter referred to as the PIO.

4.7 Working Journalist' means any working journalist as defined in the Working Journalist (conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1955.

4.8 Accreditation' means recognition of news media representatives by the Government of India for purpose of access to sources of information in the Government and also to news materials, written or pictorial, released by the Press Information Bureau and/or other agencies of the Government of India.

4.9 Electronic News Media Organisation' (Television or Radio) will include any TV/Radio News Programme Production Unit and TV/Radio News Agency.

5. THE CENTRAL PRESS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

5.1 The Government of India shall constitute a Committee called the Central Press Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the CPAC) to discharge the functions laid down under these rules.

5.2 The CPAC shall consist of PIO as Chairperson and a maximum of 19 other members, representing Associations /Organisations of working journalists/mediapersons who should otherwise be eligible for accreditation under these rules.

5.3 The CPAC once constituted shall function for a period of two years from the date of its first meeting.

5.4 The CPAC shall meet generally once in a quarter or more frequently, as considered necessary.

5.5 The decisions of the CPAC shall be taken on the basis of majority of the members present and voting.

5.6 There will be a Standing Sub-Committee of the CPAC consisting of five Delhi based members to consider and take decisions on the accreditation cases of urgent nature and other related matters. These cases will be placed before the CPAC at its next meeting.

5.7 The PIO will have the power to grant regular accreditation in cases where an accredited news media representative changes his organisation to another accredited organisation.

6. GENERAL TERMS OF ACCREDITATION

6.1 Accreditation will be given in accordance with these rules to news media representatives of various categories in different types of News-Media organisations as per eligibility conditions laid down in schedule I and within the Quota limits specified in Schedule II & III of these rules.

6.2 Accreditation shall be granted only to those representatives who reside at Delhi or its periphery.

6.3 Accreditation shall not confer any official or special status on news media representatives, but shall only recognise their identity as a professional working journalist.

6.4 Accreditation of representatives of only those media organisation will be considered which have been functioning or operating for at least one year, continuously.

6.5 The publication should carry at least 50 per cent of its contents as news and/or comments of general public interest. It should also include news and information emanating from the headquarters of the Government of India.

6.6 Publications containing information of sectional interest such as house journals, technical/professional publications etc. are not eligible for accreditation.

6.7 The organisations owned and run by Cable Operators providing Cable television service through Cable Television Network will not

be eligible for accreditation.

6.8 Accreditation shall be withdrawn as soon as the conditions on which it was given cease to exist. Accreditation is also liable to be withdrawn/suspended if it is found to have been misused.

6.9 If an applicant or a media organisation is found to have supplied false/fraudulent/forged information/documents the representative/media organisation shall be debarred form accreditation upto a maximum of five years but not less than two years, as decided by CPAC.

6.10 The CPAC reserves to itself the right to recommend or reject grant of accreditation. In all accreditation cases, decision of the CPAC will be final.

7. PROCEDURE FOR ACCREDITATION

7.1 The procedure for accreditation shall be laid down by the PIO in consultation with the CPAC.

7.2 The PIO can call for any information and documents considered necessary for the purpose of ensuring credibility and genuineness of cases of accreditation, at the time of accreditation or at its renewal or at any other time if so required.

Schedule – I

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

(Rule 6.1)

(A) News Representatives

Sl. No.	Category	Conditions
1.	Correspondents/Cameraman and other categories except freelance	Minimum 5 years professional experience as a full time working journalist/cameraman in news organisation(s).
2.	Freelance Correspondents / Camerapersons	(a) Minimum 15 years professional experience as a full time working journalist. (b) Annual income not less than Rs. 36,000/- per financial year from the journalistic work only, for correspondents and still photographers. (c) For TV camerapersons/correspondent-cum-cameramen, a minimum revenue of Rs. 5 lakh per year from news related programmes.

(B) News Organisations (Print Media)

Sl. No.	Category	Conditions
1.	Newspapers(Daily)	Circulation should not be less than 10,000 copies of 4 full size pages per publishing day.

2. Newspaper (Weekly/fortnightly) Circulation should not be less than 10,000 copies of 4 full size pages or 8 pages of tabloid size per publishing day.

3. Periodicals/Magazines (Upto fortnightly only) Circulation should not be less than 10,000 copies with a minimum of 40 pages per publishing day.

4. Wire News Agency (a) Annual Revenue not less than Rs. 20.00 lakh

(b) Should have at least 30 news subscribers.

5. News Photo Agency/News Feature Agency (a) Annual Revenue not less than Rs. 2.50 lakh

(b) Should have at least 20 paying subscribers.

(C) News Organisations (Electronic Media)

Sl. No. Category Conditions

1. TV Programme Production/ Telecast Organisations
(i) TV/Radio News Production Organisations having air time arrangements with Channels/Stations

(ii) Satellite Channels

(iii) News magazine producing organisations having telecast/ broadcast tie-up with TV Channels/Stations.

(a) Should have at least one news bulletin/programme of minimum 15 minutes duration per day.

(b) At least 15 percent of their respective air-time (approx. 3.5 hours in a 24 hours cycle) dedicated to telecast/transmission of news and news related programmes per day.

(c) A minimum total cumulative programme duration of 60 minutes per week on news and news related contents.

2. Television/Radio News Agencies (a) A minimum annual revenue of Rs. 15.00 lakh from news clips etc.

(b) Should supply news clips to at least 5 subscribing Satellite TV/Radio organisation on regular basis.

(D) Foreign News Media Representatives and Organisations will also be governed by the same eligibility

as mentioned at (A), (B) and (C) of this schedule. However, no foreign freelance journalist will be eligible for grant of accreditation.

Schedule – II

SCHEDULE OF QUOTAS FIXED FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF NEWSPAPERS/MEDIA ESTABLISHMENTS

(Rule 6.1)

PRINT MEDIA

1. Newspapers Belonging To Chains And Common Ownership Units With Aggregate Circulation :	Maximum No. of Accreditation
1. Between 75000 and One lakh	10
2. Between 1 lakh and 2 lakh	12
3. Between 2 lakh and 3 lakh	22
4. Between 3 lakh and 5 lakh	30
5. Between 5 lakh and 10 lakh	40
6. 10 lakh and above	45
2. Dailies with Circulation :	
1. Between 10,000 and 15,000	01
2. Between 15,000 and 25,000	02
3. Between 25,000 and 35,000	03
4. Between 35,000 and 50,000	04
5. Between 50,000 and 75,000	05
6. Between 75,000 and one lakh	08
7 1 lakh and above	10
3. Periodicals with Circulation :	
1. Between 10,000 and 25,000	02

2. Between 25,000 and 75,000 03

3. Between 75,000 and 1 lakh 04

4. Between 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh 06

5. Between 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh 08
6. 2 lakh and above 12

7. Periodicals belonging to chains with common ownership/multi-lingual editions and combined circulation above 5 lakh 15

4. Cartoonist and Cartographers of Newspapers 01

5. Cameramen :

1. Circulation between 10,000 and 25,000 01

2. Circulation between 25,000 and one lakh 03

3. Circulation between one lakh and 5 lakh 08

4. Circulation above 5 lakh 15

6. News Agencies (Wire) with Gross Annual Revenue:

1. Between Rs. 20 lakh and 1 crore 12

2. Between Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 5 crore 18

3. Between Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 10 crore 25

4. Rs. 10 crore and above 40
(Having services in one or more languages)

7. News Feature Agencies with Gross Annual Revenue :

1. Between Rs. 2.50 lakh and 5 lakh 02

2. Rs. 5 lakh and above 04

8. Indian News Photo Agencies with Gross Annual Revenue:

1. Between Rs. 2.50 lakh and Rs. 5 lakh 02

2. Rs. 5 lakh and above 05

3. Photo (Wire) Agencies 10

9. Foreign Based Dailies and Periodicals 05

10. Foreign News Agencies:

1. Foreign News Agencies 10

2. Foreign Photo News Agencies 05

Schedule – III

SCHEDULE OF QUOTAS FIXED FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA

(Rule 6.1)

1. TV News Production/Telecast/Organisation:

? The Electronic Media Organisation having news Bulletins/current affairs programmes of a minimum of 15 minutes per day	3 Cameramen and 3 Correspondents
? An electronic media organisation having news Bulletins/Current Affairs programmes of more than 15 minutes and upto 30 minutes per day	5 Cameramen and 5 Correspondents
? An electronic media organisation having news Bulletins/Current Affairs programmes for more than 30 minutes per day	10 Cameramen and 10 Correspondents
? A TV Programme production/telecast organization producing a minimum total cumulative programme duration of 60 minutes per week on news and news related contents.	2 Cameramen and 2 Correspondent

2. Electronic Media News Agencies:

The eligibility of quota of accreditation in respect of TV/Radio News Agencies from news and news related programmes with a verifiable revenue will be as follows:

? Revenue of Rs. 15 lakh to 25 lakh per annum	2 Cameramen and 2 Correspondents
? Revenue of more than Rs. 25 lakh to 75 lakh per annum	4 Cameramen and 4 Correspondents

? Revenue of over 75 lakh and upto 2 crore per annum — 6 Cameramen and 6 Correspondents

? Revenue of more than 2 crore and upto Rs. 10 crore per annum — 8 Cameramen and 8 Correspondents

? Revenue of more than Rs. 10 crore Per annum — 10 Cameramen and 10 Correspondents

3. Foreign Electronic Media:

? Radio Broadcasting Organisations — 3 Correspondents

? TV News Telecasting Organisation and News Agencies — 5 teams of one Cameramen and one Correspondent each

? TV and Radio News Channels with hourly telecast of News and current affairs programmes — 8 teams of one Correspondent and one cameraman each